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Black Sea links: exhibition and conference in Cracow

March 2006 was an exceptionally good month in Cracow for Polish-Ukrainian cultural and scientific cooperation. On March 17, a photographic exhibition entitled “In Search of Treasures. Polish-Ukrainian Research at Koshary near Odessa (1998–2005)” was opened at the National Museum in Cracow. This is followed by an international conference held on the next day at the Institute of Archaeology of the Jagiellonian University: “ΠΙΟΝΤΙΚΑ–ΠΟΝΤΙΚΑ–ПОНТИКА. Najnowsze badania greckich kolonii północnych wybrzeży Morza Czarnego/Recent Researches at the Northern Black Sea Coast Greek Colonies” (Papuci-Władyka, Kania 2006).

Both events were the effect of cooperation between the Institute of Archaeology of the Jagiellonian University and the Archaeological Museum of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine in Odessa, a cooperation which started several years ago, in 1998. The joint archaeological Koshary Project (Chochorowski *et al.* 1999; Papuci-Władyka, Chochorowski 1999; Papuci-Władyka 2002; 2003; Papuci-Władyka *et al.* 2004; 2006; 2009) was launched then and more importantly closer ties were established between the two institutions. Linking the two was J. Bodzek, a long-time member, along with the

present authors, of the Koshary Project, a staff member not only of the Institute of Archaeology of the Jagiellonian University but also of the National Museum in Cracow (where he heads the Numismatic Cabinet).

Some time ago, J. Bodzek and K. Moczulska (in charge of the Ancient Art gallery at the Czartoryski Museum in Cracow) came up with the idea to organize a exhibition of antiquities from Odessa in our city. Our joint suggestion to have a photographic presentation of the excavations and an academic conference to go with it was natural follow-up. The Odessa exhibition entitled “Treasures from the Black Sea. Gold, Sculpture, Pottery from the Archaeological Museum in Odessa”, which was shown from the March to June 2006 (Bodzek *et al.* 2006; cf. Bodzek, Woźniak 2006), was organized within the frame of the Cracow Museum’s “Odessa-Kraków” project. It was listed as one of the numerous cultural events designed to promote Ukraine in Poland as part of the year-long action Year of Ukraine in Poland in 2005, which ran over from the preceding year into 2006.

The official opening ceremony of the Odessa exhibition and the photo presentation took place on March 17 at the Main

Building of the Cracow National Museum¹. The photo show “In Search of Treasures”, organized by the Department of Classical Archaeology of the Jagiellonian University Institute of Archaeology, was put up in rooms right next to the Odessa exhibition² and referred to in natural way, being an illustrative complement of the archaeological presentation. It was made possible by the generous permission and support for the project on the part of Director Zofia Gołubiew from the National Museum in Cracow and Jan Chochorowski, head of the Institute of Archaeology of the Jagiellonian University. Our heartfelt thanks go to both of them.

“In Search of Treasures”, showing photographs by Robert Słaboński, as well as pictures from the Koshary Projects archives, was meant as a presentation of the work carried out on the Koshary site by a joint Cracow-Odessa archaeological expedition³. Throughout its known existence from the beginning of the 4th to about the middle of the 3rd century BC, the settlement with open offering altar (*zol'nik*) and necropolis had remained within the orbit of the Greek city state of Olbia. The show pictured how archaeologist went about discovering these “treasures” and how, after being documented and studied, the objects had to pass through the patient hands of restorers before they could be put on display in museum cases. Some of the objects excavated at the

site, like a fine golden necklace with *lunula* (crescent) pendant from a grave dated to the 4th century and a terracota figurine depicting a drunken Heracles were exhibited at the National Museum (Bodzek [ed.] 2006, 126, no. 15, 294, no. 14.). In this sense, the photo display proved to be an integral part of the show presenting archaeological “treasures”.

Complementing the two exhibitions in the scientific sphere was the said conference concerning the newest research in the Black Sea littoral. It took place on the March 18 at the Institute of Archaeology of the Jagiellonian University in Gołębia Street and it proved to be an excellent forum for exchanging ideas and presenting the results of work by several expeditions excavating in the region from Tyras in the west to Tanais in Russia and the Georgian Pichvnari in the east. Altogether 18 papers were read. V. V. Krapivina (Kiev) discussed the results of her work at Olbia, the metropolitan town for Koshary. A few papers concerned the lower Dnester: S. B. Okhotnikov (Odessa) spoke of ancient settlement in the area; T. L. Samoylova (Odessa) presented the excavations at Tyras, which was the most important Greek colony in the area, and M. Mielczarek (Toruń) discussed the joint work conducted at Nikonion by the Odessa Museum (S. B. Okhotnikov) and the Kopernik University in Toruń.

The block concerning Koshary proved the biggest of all. The results and future objectives of the excavations were presented in a joint paper by E. F. Redina (Odessa), E. Papuci-Władyka, J. Bodzek and W. Machowski (Cracow), while more specific aspects of research were discussed by scholars from Cracow: J. Chochorowski concentrated on the socio-cultural aspects of organisation of sacral space in the Koshary necropolis; anthropological studies from this necropolis were reported by

¹ Open until June 4, 2006 (cf. also Dziwisz 2006).

² The National Museum organised another show to go with the Odessa Exhibition. It was a photo presentation of conservation treatment, which many objects from Odessa underwent at the Conservation Labs of the National Museum in Cracow before being put on display.

³ This presentation of Polish-Ukrainian excavations at Koshary followed in the wake of earlier exhibition projects: a photo display organized in Cracow in 2001 (Bodzek 2001) and an archaeological show of objects excavated at Koshary, held in Odessa in 2004 (Papuci-Władyka, Bodzek 2004/2005).

K. Kaczanowski and A. Kosydarski, J. Bodzek presented the coin evidence, G. Łaczek the bone amulets, A. Kowal the grey pottery, and M. Kania chosen aspects of everyday life of the inhabitants of the Koshary settlement.

Investigations of the outlying colony of Tanais, already on the edges of the Greek *oikumene*, were presented by T. Scholl (Warsaw), heading the Polish part of the joint expedition of Warsaw and Rostov universities. M. Vickers from Oxford, speaking on behalf of A. Kakhidze (Batumi) and her own, discussed the work of yet another joint expedition, the British-Georgian archaeological team at Pichvnari. Underwater archaeology of the Black Sea coast was also represented: preliminary results of the research done at Olbia were reported on by A. Pydyn (Toruń), while the perspectives for this kind of explorations in the Black Sea were discussed by M. Czech (Cracow).

The conference was attended by V. P. Vanchugov, Director of the Archaeological Museum in Odessa. It was hosted jointly by J. Chochorowski, Director of the Institute of Archaeology of the Jagiellonian University, and E. Papuci-Władyka, head of the Classical Archaeology Department at the Institute and co-director, with E. F. Redina, of the Koshary expedition. Special guest V. Karageorghis, Director of the Anastasios G. Leventis Foundation (Nicosia, Cyprus), presented the achievements of the Foundation in the promotion, conservation and organisation of exhibitions of monuments of Cypriot and Greek culture

throughout the world, the Odessa Museums included.

The ΠΟΝΤΙΚΑ–PONTICA–ΠΟΝΤΙΚΑ conference brought important conclusions, which will be presented in the published acts of meeting⁴. The conference also demonstrated the role that Cracow can play as a meeting place between the East and West of Europe. Many promising contacts were made at the conference between representatives of various academic and museum institutions. By the same, the one-day meeting organised by the Department of Classical Archaeology of Jagiellonian University proved to be an important event for researchers focusing on ancient cultures of the Black Sea.

The exhibition and conference would have hardly taken on the shape it had without the contribution of the staff, doctoral candidates and students of the Faculty of History and the Institute of Archaeology of the Jagiellonian University: apart from the present authors, G. Łaczek, A. Kowal, M. Czech, K. Mirczak, S. Stelmach and A. Drzymuchowska, as well as S. Chwałek, a graduate of our Institute. J. Bodzek and M. Woźniak of the Archaeological Institute and the National Museum at the same time, operated as a natural connection between our two institutions.

⁴ The proceedings of the conference PONTIKA 2006 were published already in the meantime (Papuci-Władyka 2008) (cf. references).

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